GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1193
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
HIGH RESIDUE OF PESTICIDES
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether high residue of pesticides are hampering export of processed foods and agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up inspection facilities for processed food items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be adopted for ensuring growth of processed food items?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a) & (b): Some foreign buyers, particularly from European Union are reported to have rejected some food consignments from India due to high pesticides residue. However, the acceptable level of pesticides residue is a matter of dispute as there is variation in the levels prescribed by India, European Union, Codex, United States and other countries.

(c) & (d): The Export Inspection Council of India under Ministry of Commerce & Industry has already set up Export Inspection Agencies in various States. Under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act 1963, it is mandatory for exporters of Fish and Fish Products, Milk products, Egg products and Animal Casings to have pre-shipment inspection & certification before export. In addition to this, laboratories recognized by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Coffee Board, Spices Board, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection monitor quality/safety parameters of processed food.

(e): Ministry of Food Processing Industries is providing financial assistance for promotion and development of food processing industries including infrastructure provisioning in the country. There are other agencies like APEDA, MPEDA, Spice Board, Coffee Board etc. which are also providing financial assistance for the growth of food industries in various areas. In addition to this, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has proposed several measures in the draft National Food Processing Policy for creating an enabling environment for the growth of food processing industries in the country.